

Application No. 10/807,409

Attorney Docket No. 505 US

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended): A stretchable web comprising:
 - a three-dimensional web having a plurality of elongated cells aligned to provide mechanical elasticity perpendicularly to the aligned elongated apertures alignment, and
 - a retractive force mechanism disposed so as to provide increased retractive force to said cells in the direction of said mechanical elasticity.
2. (Original): The web of claim 1, wherein the retractive force mechanism comprises lanes of two-dimensional material positioned between lanes of three-dimensional elongated cells.
3. (Original): The web of claim 1, wherein the retractive force mechanism comprises lanes of a plurality of smaller cells between lanes of a plurality of larger cells.
4. (Original): The web of claim 1, wherein the retractive force mechanism is a reinforcing layer bonded to said web.
5. (Original): The web of claim 4, wherein the reinforcing layer is selected from the group consisting of film, non-woven, woven, necked non-woven, slit non-woven, apertured non-woven, apertured film, apertured film with elongated apertures, laminates, incrementally stretched non-wovens, and mixtures thereof.

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6. (Original): The web of claim 4, wherein the reinforcing layer is bonded to the web with a plurality of discrete bonds.
7. (Original): The web of claim 4, wherein the reinforcing layer is bonded to the web with an adhesive or an elastic adhesive.
8. (Original): The web of claim 1 wherein the elongated cells are apertures.
9. (Original): The web of claim 1 wherein the retractive force mechanism comprises at least one bridging element positioned across at least one elongated cell.
10. (Original): The web of claim 9 wherein the bridging element is comprised of the same material as the web.
11. (Original): The web of claim 9 wherein the bridging element is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of adhesive, elastic adhesive, film strips, non-woven strips, and mixtures thereof.
12. (Original): The web of claim 9, wherein the bridging element is positioned across the minor axis of at least one elongated cell.

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13. (Original): The web of claim 12, wherein the bridging element is ruptured across the at least one elongated cell.

14. (Currently Amended): A stretchable web, comprising:

a three-dimensional web of inelastic material having a plurality of apertures selected from the group consisting of aligned elongated cells and central pinwheel cells; and

a restrictive force mechanism comprising at least one of:

(a) pinwheel groupings configurations of three-dimensional cells in the inelastic material, the groupings including a central cell and a plurality of cells at least partially surrounding the central pinwheel cell to create elasticity;

(b) at least one bridging element extending across at least one of said elongated cells in a direction parallel to the elongated cell's minor axis; or

(c) at least one lane of unapertured material, wherein said three-dimensional apertured webbing comprises aligned elongated cells disposed in lanes adjacent and planar to said unapertured lane,

15. (Original): The web of claim 14 wherein the plurality of cells at least partially surrounding the central cell includes at least a pair of "C" shaped cells.

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16. (Original): The web of claim 15 wherein the plurality of cells at least partially surrounding the central cell comprises at least two shapes of cells.

17. (Original): The web of claim 14 wherein the three-dimensional cells include a plurality of apertures.

18. (Original): A method of making the web of claim 1, comprising:

forming a three-dimensional web comprising a plurality of elongated apertures aligned to provide mechanical elasticity perpendicular to the aligned elongated apertures; and

providing a retractive force mechanism to the three-dimensional web to increase the retractive force of the web.

19. (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein providing the retractive force mechanism comprises forming the three-dimensional web using a screen having at least one lane of perforations positioned between at least one lane of unperforated screen to provide a web having at least one lane of two-dimensional material positioned between at least one lane of three-dimensional elongated cells.

20. (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein providing the retractive force mechanism comprises forming the three-dimensional web using a screen having a plurality of first perforations positioned between a plurality of second perforations where the first perforations have a diameter smaller than the second perforations.

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21. (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein providing the retractive force mechanism comprising bonding a reinforcing layer to the web.

22. (Original): The method of claim 21, wherein the reinforcing layer is selected from the group consisting of film, non-woven, woven, necked non-woven, slit non-woven, apertured non-woven, apertured film, apertured film with elongated apertures, laminates, incrementally stretched non-wovens, and mixtures thereof.

23. (Original): The method of claim 21, wherein the reinforcing layer is bonded to the web with a plurality of discrete bonds.

24. (Original): The method of claim 21, wherein the reinforcing layer is bonded to the web with an adhesive or an elastic adhesive.

25. (Original): The method of claim 18 wherein providing the retractive force mechanism comprises positioning at least one bridging element across at least one elongated cell.

26. (Original): The method of claim 25 wherein the bridging element is comprised of the same material as the web.

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27. (Original): The method of claim 25 wherein the bridging element is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of adhesive, elastic adhesive, film strips, non-woven strips, and mixtures thereof.
28. (Original): The method of claim 25, wherein the bridging element is positioned across the minor axis of at least one elongated cell.
29. (Original): The method of claim 28, wherein the bridging element is ruptured across the at least one elongated cell.
30. (Original): A laminate comprising the web of claim 1 and an additional layer laminated to the web.
31. (Original): An absorbent garment comprising the web of claim 1.